

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EA-10 EUR-12 TRSE-00
SSM-03 /129 W

-----116020 162333Z /70

P R 161354Z MAY 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1885
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1263

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, CU
SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE: OPENING SESSIONS

1. SUMMARY: ONLY CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT APPARENTLY AIRED DURING
OPENING ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IS SAHARA
ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS GLEANED FROM CUBAN-RUN PRESS
CONFERENCE, MID-DAY, MAY 15. USINT OFFICER WAS TOLD BY LISANDRO
OTERO, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS (MINREX) PRESS
AND CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, THAT FURTHER USINT ATTENDANCE AT PRESS
CONFERENCES WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED. WHILE OTERO PROMISED THAT
MINREX WOULD PROVIDE PRESS BRIEFING MATERIAL TO USINT, WE
HAVE OUR DOUBTS.

3. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
MONDAY, MAY 15, MORNING PLENARY SESSION WAS OPENED BY B.J.
FERNANDO, SIR LANKA, WHO HANDED CHAIRMANSHIP TO RAUL
ROA KOURI, CUBA'S AMBASSADOR TO UN. PLENARY APPROVED
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FOLLOWING AGENDA FOR MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY AMBASSADORS/
EXPERTS' SESSION (MINISTERIAL SESSIONS WILL RUN FROM
THURSDAY MORNING TO 1900, SATURDAY, MAY 20): A) WORKING
PROCEDURES OF AMBASSADORS EXPERTS SESSIONS, B) ADOPTION
OF AGENDA OF AMBASSADORS/EXPERTS SESSION, C) ORGANIZATION
OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF MINISTERIAL MEETING, D) ORGANIZATION
OF WORK OF MINISTERIAL MEETING, AND E) EXAMINATION OF

DRAFT FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS OF MINISTERIAL MEETING.

4. FOLLOWING DELEGATIONS SPOKE TO THESE QUESTIONS: CHAD, SYRIA, ZAIRE, SRI LANKA, YUGOSLAVIA, INDIA, MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, PERU, NIGER, NIGERIA, ALGERIA, AND BOTSWANA.

5. ALL DELEGATIONS THANKED CUBANS FOR EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION OF MEETING.

6. ROA KOURI (CUBA) SUGGESTED THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING CHAIRMANSHIPS BE ORGANIZED ON BASIS OF GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND TRADITIONAL NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT PRACTICE. THUS, CHAIRMAN OF MINISTERIAL WOULD BE FROM LATIN AMERICA WITH VICE-CHAIRMAN FROM ASIA, AFRICA, AND EUROPE. SRI LANKA, AS CHAIRMAN OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, WOULD SERVE AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER AND RAPPOUTEUR WOULD BE FROM LATIN AMERICA. POLITICAL COMMISSION WOULD HAVE AFRICAN CHAIRMAN AND ASIAN VICE-CHAIRMAN. ECONOMIC COMMISSION WOULD HAVE ASIAN CHAIRMAN AND AFRICAN VICE-CHAIRMAN, CUBAN SUGGESTION WAS APPROVED.

7. ALSO, CUBA RECOMMENDED THAT THREE INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS BE SET UP DURING AMBASSADOR/EXPERTS MEETING TO DISCUSS: A) POLITICAL ASPECTS OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE, B) ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE, AND C) PREPARATION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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TORY WORK FOR JULY MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BELGRADE. THESE WORKING GROUPS, WHICH BEGAN MEETING MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 15, ARE OPEN TO ANY COUNTRY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING. CUBAN SUGGESTION WAS ADOPTED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

8. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

MOROCCAN EMBASSY, MAY 15, INDICATED THAT MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN DELS SPOKE AGAINST INCLUSION OF SAHARA ISSUE IN DRAFT AGENDA THAT HAD BEEN PREPARED BEFOREHAND BY NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU IN NEW YORK. ALGERIANS REPLIED THAT, SINCE MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS ARE ONLY "OBSERVERS", THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO SPEAK TO WORK OF NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU. MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS WILL SEEK TO CONTINUE TO CONFRONT ALGERIANS, IF THEY ARE ALLOWED TO DO SO, WITHIN POLITICAL WORKING GROUP. (COMMENT: WHILE WORKING GROUPS WILL INCLUDE ANY INTERESTED PARTY, THEIR OPERATING PROCEDURES HAVE NOT BEEN SET.)

9. SYRIAN EMBASSY, MAY 15, INDICATED THAT NO CONTROVERSIAL MIDDLE EAST SUBJECTS HAVE YET BEEN RAISED. SYRIAN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HIS DEL WILL SEEK TO "TURN US POLICY ON MIDDLE EAST AROUND."

10. LEBANESE EMBASSY,MAY 15, SAID THAT NO MENTION WAS
MADE IN OPENING MEETINGS OF NEW SHABA INCURSION (DESPITE
PRESENCE AND APPARENT INTERVENTION BY ZAIRE DEL) NOR OF
ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA PROBLEM. END CONFIDENTIAL.
LANE

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Message Attributes

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